ARTICLES: Articles are basically Determiners. They are categorized as : Indefinite article (A, AN) and Definite article ( THE )

Use of A/AN:

An is used before nouns beginning with vowels: An elephant…

A is used before nouns beginning with consonants: A bike, a car...

Choosing A/An depends on the first sound, not letter, of the word.

He has a horse.

He is an honest man. ( H is silent. So sound begins with ‘O’ which is a vowel.)

We use A/An before singular nouns when we are presenting new information.

He bought a new car.

There is an invitation for you.

A/an is used to mean anything or anyone when it doesn’t matter which one ( in the sense of ‘any’):

Could you pass me a spoon, please? ( any spoon, a category or example)

A/an is not used before plural nouns and uncountable nouns: we use some instead:

There is an invitation for you. There are some invitations for you.

A/An is used when we classify someone by the work they do:

I am a student.

He is an engineer

A/An is used when we classify something by definition or description:

Is your watch a Titan?

A Dolphin is a fish.

A/ AN or One:

One is used when we want to emphasise the number one or to talk about a particular but unspecified occasion.

We have only one seat.

One day it was raining.

One is used for specific numbers but A/An is used for approx

It cost me one hundred rupees.

The trip cost almost a hundred rupees

Use of ‘THE’:

When we talk of a unique or particular thing or one already referred to.

The book **you want** is out of print.

A girl was standing under the tree. The girl seemed to be lost.

The sky is blue’

When a singular noun is meant to represent a whole class,

The cow is a useful animal.

With these kinds of proper nouns:

Rivers: The River Nile flows through Egypt.

Mountain ranges: We ski in the Alps every year.

Deserts She travelled across the Sahara.

Oceans and seas: We sailed around the Mediterranean.

Groups of islands: They went to the Canary Islands.

With names of a few countries that include ‘United’ or ‘Republic’. (The United States)

Before names of certain special books.

The Vedas

We use a superlative to say that a thing or person is the most of a group. When we use a superlative adjective ('the **tallest** student') before a noun, we generally use it with 'the'. This is because there's only one (or one group) of the thing we are talking about. There is one student who is the tallest in the class, and because it's clear to the listener which one we mean, we usually use 'the':

She’s **the** most beautiful girl I’ve ever seen.

It’s **the** best café in London.

John and Lisa are **the** most intelligent students here.

This bowl is **the** biggest one.

When a proper noun is qualified by an adjective.

The great Caesar

With musical instruments

He can play the piano.

As an adverb with comparatives.

The more the merrier.

OMISSION OF THE ARTICLE

No article is used before the name of countries, cities, continent, lakes, mountains, villages…Ex: he lives in Korea.

-No article is used before the name of academic subject, name of sport, names of meals, languages, names of relations, names of posts, when a preposition is followed by object:

Ex: biology, [**English**](http://www.learnperfectenglishgrammar.com/2015/08/how-to-learn-english-fast-and-easily.html), Football, lunch, father, principal, at home

- No articles are also common before countable plural and often uncountable nouns when we are talking about thing general:

Have we got any juice? Juice is good for your health.

**Bed**

Bed is a strange word! If we don't use an article, it means a place where we sleep, not a particular object.

The children are in bed.

We didn't get out of bed until after one o'clock.

She got home and went straight to bed.

But when we are thinking about a bed as an object, we use articles in the normal way:

She sat on the bed in my room [I choose 'the' because the listener knows which bed I mean].

I need to buy a new bed [I choose 'a' because I don't know which bed yet, I'm not talking about a specific one].

**Home**

The word home is also a bit strange. We usually use 'no article':

They went home.\*

I stayed at home.

Julie works from home.

It's time to go home.

Lucy is at home at the moment.

\*Notice we don't need to with 'go home' (not 'go to home').

But we can use an article with home when it means 'the building that somebody lives (or used to live) in'. In this case we use articles in the normal way.

We visited the home of Jackie Kennedy.

My sister has made her flat into a beautiful home.

**Work (used as a noun)**

When we use 'work' to mean a place, then we don't need to use an article:

She's at work.

I arrive at work at nine.

We leave work every day at six.

You should go to work earlier.

When we use 'work' to mean projects that we are working on now, ‘work' is a normal uncountable noun. So, we can use 'the' if we are talking about some specific work that the listener knows about:

The work I'm doing at the moment is very interesting.

[An exception is when work means a piece of art/literature/music. In this case work is a normal countable noun].

**Town**

When we are thinking about the town centre near to us, we often use 'no article' with certain expressions.

In town: John's in town at the moment.

Go into town: Shall we go into town this afternoon?

Leave town: He left town after he argued with his wife.

Town can also be a normal noun.

The town where I live is quite small [we use the because the listener knows which one].

We use ‘a/an’ with several quantifiers:

 a little

 a few

 a lot (of)

We also use ‘no article’ with several:

 little

 few

 lots (of)

In many situations, we can choose to use ‘a little’ or ‘little’ (when using an uncountable noun) or ‘a few’ or ‘few’ (when using a plural countable noun). They have slightly different meanings. (‘A lot’ and ‘lots’ aren’t like this. ‘A lot’ means the same as ‘lots’).

When we say ‘a little’ or ‘a few’ we mean a small amount, but it’s enough.

Lucy: I have **a little** money, enough for the cinema at least.

On the other hand, ‘little’ or ‘few’ usually give us a different impression. These also mean a small amount, but this time the amount is almost nothing. If the noun is something that we want (like money or friends) then using ‘little’ or ‘few’ means that we don’t have enough.

Lucy: Sorry, I have **little** money. I really can’t afford to go out.

Use some, any or ‘no article’

We can use some, any or ‘no article’ (Ø) before plural or uncountable nouns. They all mean something similar to a/an before a singular noun. For example:

Can I have a banana? [One banana, but any one is okay.]

Can I have some bananas? [More than one banana, but any small group is okay.]

**The difference between ‘some’ and ‘no article’:**

Often, there isn’t a big difference in meaning between ‘no article’ and ‘some’. However, we use

‘some’ when we are talking about a limited number or amount (but we don’t know or we don’t want to say the exact quantity).

‘Some’ means ‘a certain number of’ or ‘a certain amount of’. We don’t use ‘some’ if we are talking about something in general or thinking about it as a category. When we use ‘some’, we don’t say the exact quantity, but we could probably find it out if we needed to. For example:

Can you buy some milk? [We don’t know exactly how much, but I’m talking about certain

amount of milk – I don’t want all the milk in the world.]

On the other hand, we use ‘no article’ when we aren’t thinking about the quantity. It’s used to talk about the noun as a category, rather than a certain amount of it:

We need Ø milk to make pancakes. [I’m thinking about milk as a category. I’m not thinking

about a certain amount of milk.]

More examples:

We need to buy Ø coffee [I’m talking about coffee as a category, not thinking about the

amount].

Would you like some coffee? [I mean a certain amount of coffee, probably a cup.]

I ate some bread [I mean a certain amount of bread].

I ate Ø bread [not pasta or rice].

Remember that often it doesn’t make a big difference:

Do you want Ø tea? [I’m not thinking about the amount.]

Do you want some tea? [I’m thinking about the amount, but the meaning is really the same as

the first sentence.]

**The difference between ‘some’ and ‘any’:**

Generally, we use ‘any’ in the same way as ‘some’: when we are thinking about a certain amount or number of something. Remember, usually both ‘some’ and ‘any’ can only be used with plural countable nouns or uncountable nouns, but not usually with singular countable nouns.

We usually use ‘some’ with affirmative (positive) sentences and ‘any’ with negatives and questions:

She bought some tomatoes [positive sentence].

She didn’t buy any tomatoes [negative sentence].

Did she buy any tomatoes [question]?

However, there are some exceptions to this.

1. ‘Any’ can be used in a positive sentence to mean ‘it’s not important which one’. When we use ‘any’

in this way, it’s most often used with singular countable nouns:

You can take any bus.

Pass me any glass.

Come over any Sunday.

2. ‘Any’ can also be used in positive sentences that have a negative feeling, for example if they

include ‘never’, ‘hardly’, ‘without’:

She never eats any fruit.

We hardly watch any television.

Julia left the house without any money.

3. ‘Some’ can be used in questions when we expect that the answer will be ‘yes’. This is very common

in offers and requests:

Would you like some coffee?

Do you want some sandwiches?

Could you give me some help?

Could you pass me some sugar?

Compare the following two sentences:

Do you have any letters for me? [This is a real question. I don’t know if you have any letters

or not.]

Do you have some letters for me? [I think you do, so I’m expecting that you will say ‘yes’.

**Go through the rules carefully and systematically. In the light of these, attempt the exercises from page 68 to73**